



# Message from the Director



In 2002, the Federal Emergency Management Agency began its final year as an independent agency the same way it ended 2001: helping New York City recover from the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 and preparing the entire nation for the challenges we all face in the post-9/11 world.

The year ended—42 major disaster declarations and 83 fire management assistance grants later—with the Agency preparing its transition into the new Department of Homeland Security. Designed to be an all-hazards entity focused on protecting the lives and property of the American people, the Department’s mission meshes with FEMA’s seamlessly, which is why our Agency will continue to serve the American people as one of the pillars of America’s revamped Homeland Security network.

In addition to responding to immediate disasters like Hurricane Lili and Tropical Storm Isidore, FEMA designated \$360 million through the Fire Grants program for thousands of fire departments around the country to strengthen the fire service’s response capability. We also were provided with \$225 million to distribute to states to modernize their emergency operations centers, update emergency response plans, and improve their emergency preparedness.

This Annual Performance and Accountability Report documents those and other successes and lessons, and I hope it will serve to guide our growth in the new year. The performance data enclosed is extracted from the various databases that are identified in the performance report and is reliable and complete to the best of our knowledge. KPMG LLP audited the principal financial statements and rendered an unqualified opinion on them.

On the basis of available evidence, plans underway, and the assurance statements submitted by Agency senior managers, I am able to certify with reasonable assurance that, with the exception of any items identified in “Systems, Controls, and Legal Compliance” and the Independent Auditor’s Reports on the FY 2002 financial statements, the Agency is in compliance with the provisions of the Federal Managers’ Financial Integrity Act (FMFIA).

This report should serve as a valuable tool for our Agency in the future, in its thorough documentation of FEMA’s activities and success in FY 2002. I hope the momentum we built will help make our transition into the Department of Homeland Security as seamless and efficient as the American people expect and deserve.

Joe M. Allbaugh  
Director  
January 24, 2003

